AFL WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Senate Tax Bill Soaks The Poor

Tobin Blocks Canneries Efforts to Slash Wages

Washington. — Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin denied a request from Secretary of Army Frank Pace to exempt canneries from the Walsh-Healey Act fixing minimum wages and working conditions on government contracts.

The action was a notable victory for AFL unions who charged that Mr. Pace and the Army were "being used as a cloak by the cannery interests to take advantage of the present emergency and deprive their employes of the minimum standards" established by the Walsh-Healey law.

The announcement of the denial of the exemption came in a letter to AFL President William Green, who had charged in a letter to Tobin that the canners' drive for exemption "is part of a nation-wide campaign which is being waged by employer interests to emasculate or repeal the Walsh-Healey Act."

At a hearing on the exemption held on June 11, Bert Seidman of the AFL Research Staff vigorously opposed the proposed exemption. He pointed out that if the canneries were granted the exemption, it would result in a serious setback to the considerable improvements which unions in the cannery industry have made through their own efforts in recent years.

Associated with the AFL in its presentation at the hearing were the following representatives of affiliated unions: E. S. Benjamin, appearing in behalf of the National Cannery Conference of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, and Leon H. Schachter, Elmer Hewitt and David Dolnick, appearing in behalf of the Amalgamated Meatcutters and Butcher Workmen.

GREEN BROADCAST 5:45 P.M. SEPT. 3

Washington. — AFL President William Green will extend Labor Day greetings to American workers over National Broadcasting Company network 5:45 to 6 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time, Monday, Labor Day, Sept. 3.

The time was changed from 10:45 p.m. on account of a U. S. Savings Bond rally.

AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany speaks over Mutual Broadcasting Company network at 2 p.m., EDT, Sunday, Sept. 2.

Calls Congress Weakest Link

Atlanta, Ga.—Congress is our weakest link in our chain of defenses against Communist aggression.

AFL President William Green told the 62nd convention of the AFL International Typographical Union that the present Congress has done "grave injury to our national unity and morale."

"I believe that their days as a majority force are numbered," he said.

He said the men who gutted the Defense Production Act of vital provisions and smeared upright and able men are the same who are responsible for the Taft-Hartley Act.

Washington.—This official poster for National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week, Oct. 7-13, shows a valuable industrial worker making an important contribution to defense mobilization even though handicapped.

Johnston Okays Raises To Offset Price Hikes

Washington.—A new wage policy permitting increases to offset the rise in the cost of living index is in effect.

Economic Stabilization Director Eric Johnston approved the policy recently outlined by the Wage Stabilization Board until next March 1.

The immediate effect is to permit a rise of 2 percent in wages, or more in exceptional circumstances, in addition to the 10 percent increase above the levels of January 1950, permitted under the old formula.

In his approval, Mr. Johnston said in part:

"The policy allows wage adjustments for the wage-earners of America—organized and unorganized—that are fair and equitable in relation to what the Congress by law has accorded to farmer through parity pricing provisions and to business through cost adjustments under the Defense Production Act.

"I agree fully with the provision in the resolution that this policy should be subject to later review by the board. I am making my approval effective only through March 1, 1952. The wage program should be reviewed before that time to determine whether it meets the stabilization requirements then existing."

4 PICKED

Washington.—Dr. George W. Taylor, chairman Wage Stabilization Board, announced the appointment of 4 alternate labor members of the Construction Industry Stabilization Commission, which is an arm of the WSB created to deal with the wage stabilization problems of that industry.

The 4 alternates are: John Murphy, secretary Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers' International Union; Francis Worden, international representative Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; Leslie L. Myers, general organizer International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers; Robert Byron, general president Sheet Metal Workers International Association.

'INACTION' WORD FOR CONGRESS

Washington.—AFL Vice President W. C. Doherty has a word for the 82d Congress: Inaction.

"The inaction in the present Congress is far worse than in the 80th or 81st," he told the AFL National Legislative Committee.

Auto Workers Honor Padway

Milwaukee, Wis.—Joseph A. Padway, chief legal counsel for the American Federation of Labor until his untimely death in 1947, is being honored on its 1951 Labor Day card by the AFL United Automobile Workers of America.

This is the third year that the Auto Workers have distributed a special card on labor's day. Previously honored were Samuel Gompers and Peter McGuire.

The 1951 card carries one of the latest pictures taken of Mr. Padway before his death, along with a message which said in part:

"He believed that the welfare of the nation and the world was inseparably linked with that of the man who earned with his hands, and that in helping him he benefited all mankind.

"After World War II, although in failing health, he led an intense fight in opposition to anti-labor legislation, both nationally and in the states, which culminated in a heart attack and his death while addressing the American Federation of Labor convention in San Francisco, Calif., Oct. 8, 1947."

Green Says Measure To Spare Rich

Columbus, Ohio.—The Senate Finance Committee wrote a "spare-the-rich-and-soak-the-poor" tax measure.

AFL President William Green told the Ohio State Federation of Labor's 66th Convention that the Senate committee prepared a bill for the floor that abandoned the comparatively simple and fair plan already passed by the House of Representatives.

Under the House bill, Mr. Green pointed out, every taxpayer regardless of income bracket would be required to pay an extra one-eighth, or 12½ percent.

"This carries out the principle of equality of sacrifice," Mr. Green said.

"But the Senate Finance Committee is now drafting a substitute plan. On the face of it, it looks equally fair. It provides that the tax rate in each income bracket should be increased by 3 percentage points. Let's see how it works out.

"Under this proposal, the average couple with 2 children and a net income of from $3,000 to $5,000 a year would pay 15 percent more income taxes, instead of the 12½ percent increase in the House bill. For the same family with $100,000 net income, the increase would be cut to 5½ percent.

"Spare the rich and soak the poor! That is the motto of the reactionary coalition in Congress. And unless the American people wake up to the deception in the tax bill which the Senate Finance Committee is now engineering, the coalition may put over another great victory for the millionaires."

The tax measure is one of the "must" bills still on the calendar of the Republican-Dixiecrat 82d Congress pushing for an Oct. 1 adjournment.

Mr. Green said that labor's big job next year, despite the disappointments of 1950, will be to awaken the American people to the political facts of life and strive for the election of a liberal Congress.

Ask ECA Swap For Engravers

New York.—Edward A. Nyegaard, deputy New York State industrial commissioner, would send 200 American photo-engravers to visit Europe each year to study techniques under the Fulbright amendment to the Economic Cooperation Act.

A vice president of the New York City Photo-Engravers' Union, Mr. Nyegaard made his proposal in a speech to the 50th golden anniversary convention of the AFL International Photo-Engravers Union.

Mr. Nyegaard said that to date the emphasis upon the swapping of students and the educational exchange program has been placed on the teaching fields.

"I would like to see a system evolved which will permit 200 American photo-engravers to visit Europe each year to study shop methods," he said. "Not only will this plan permit our members to learn some of the techniques which Englund and European craftsmen have developed but it will also give more European craftsmen the opportunity to learn some of our concepts of freedom.

"Whether this plan can be put into operation is a question that our State Department officials can answer. From our industry's point of view, such a plan would have far-reaching implications. In any event I think we might well ask the authorities in Washington to discuss this suggestion."

RELEASE SEPT. 2.

CONFIDENTIAL: The following statement by the President must be held in confidence until released. Release is for all regular editions of newspapers, Sunday, September 2, 1951, and thereafter. The same release applies to radio commentators and news broadcasters.

Please Guard Against Premature Publication or Announcement.

Truman Pledges Equality Of Sacrifice In Defense

By HARRY S. TRUMAN, *President of The United States*

In extending Labor Day greetings to the workers of the United States and in offering my congratulations to the great labor movement of which they are rightfully proud to be members, I prayerfully hope that all our people may recapture the spirit of social justice and human brotherhood which was originally associated with Labor Day. We have made great progress since 1894 in establishing the dignity of labor and in promoting the general welfare of the American economy. But we still have a long way to go.

Our domestic responsibility at this critical period in the nation's history is 2-fold. First, we must develop our productive and military resources to such a peak that the totalitarian enemies of freedom will eventually see the madness of their monstrous program of world domination. Secondly, it is important to guarantee equality of sacrifice in the defense mobilization program. And last, it is our purpose to achieve these 2 objectives democratically and cooperatively.

The American labor movement is second to no other group in its determination to pursue these 3 objectives simultaneously. American labor is wholeheartedly in favor of all-out economic mobilization and equality of sacrifice. Even more important it is in favor of carrying out these objectives democratically and in a spirit of voluntary cooperation between organized labor, management and the government.

We believe in democratic cooperation between organized labor and management and between labor, management and government. We believe in industrial democracy, as opposed to unregulated competition on the one hand and excessive governmentalism on the other. We believe in freedom, not the unregulated license of laissez faire, but freedom religiously dedicated and consciously ordered to the general welfare.

We believe in these things not only for workers in our own country, but throughout the world. We recognize the dangers that face the freedom of millions of workers in many other countries. We know, moreover, that lasting peace and security can be achieved only when workers everywhere are vouchsafed the privileges and the rights that are legally recognized and protected in the United States.

As President of the United States, I congratulate the American labor movement on the soundness of its traditions and policies and pledge my continued support of its ideals. Working together—labor, management and government—we can safeguard our material standard of living. Even more important than that, we can hand down to our children a glorious heritage of freedom, without which even a life of material abundance and prosperity is hardly worth the living. With the help of God we can achieve the goals we have set for ourselves and help to bring peace to the world.

Grange-Bureau Anti-Farmer; For Big Business, Mitchell Says

By H. L. MITCHELL
President AFL National Farm Labor Union

Washington.—For many years the American Federation of Labor has supported all farm legislation sponsored by the major farm organizations, the Farm Bureau and Grange.

However, these organizations, with few exceptions in certain state farm bureaus and state granges, are entirely dominated by corporate farm interests who are a part and parcel of the NAM (National Association of Manufacturers) and the Chamber of Commerce.

The National Grange started off back in the 1880's as a real farmers' organization. However, its leadership was composed of officials of the U. S. Department of Agriculture who were fearful of a real rank and file farmer controlled movement. They killed off its militant program and made it a conservative group, with a lot of fraternal trappings designed to hold the allegiance of the rank and file.

The AFL made no mistake in classifying the Grange an anti-labor.

The Farm Bureau was founded by the Jamestown Chamber of Commerce in New York. Its main purpose was to get a county agent in every agricultural county in the United States. They got legislation through Congress and the county agents started being paid in part with government funds.

A group of southern leaders of the Farm Bureau early in the days of the New Deal decided that they would build a big political organization. They set the county agents to work organizing the Farm Bureau.

Using their positions in the government, the county agents checked off membership dues from small farmers', tenant and sharecroppers' government checks which were paid them for taking part in the crop control program.

These hundreds of thousands of rank and file farmers were involuntary members of the Farm Bureau. Their dues were often paid direct from the U. S. Treasury checks without their authorization.

Local business men—biz farmers—completely control the Farm Bureau throughout the land. With such connections it was only natural that the Farm Bureau became the spearhead of the drive for anti-labor legislation.

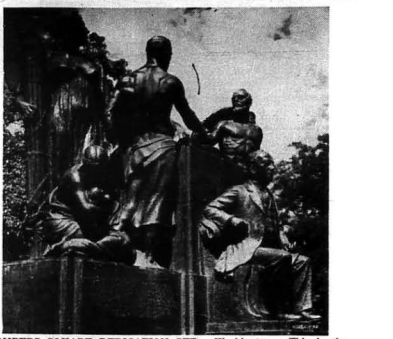
The Taft-Hartley Act was put through by the National Association of Manufacturers with the aid of the Bureau and Grange. Little Taft-Hartley Acts were enacted in nearly all rural states.

The crowning blow as far as the AFL was concerned came when the anti-price control law was recently enacted. The Grange and Bureau led the fight against the consumer. The 8 million members of the AFL were up in arms as were those of the CIO and railway unions.

The National Farm Labor Union has long realized that the farm bloc in Congress was controlled by leaders of these 2 major farm organizations. More than that, the smaller farmers also realized they were getting a drubbing from the organizations to which they belonged.

A few of the small farmers came to the AFL for help and joined the National Farm Labor Union because they wanted to be in the organization that was on their side of the fence and not on the side of big business.

In addition to the Grange and Farm Bureau, there is the reactionary National Council of Farmer Cooperatives. The Farmers Educational and Cooperative of America (also known as the National Farmers Union) adopts liberal policies and programs and denounces Taft-Hartley Acts at its conventions, but there are a number of state organizations in the Farmers Union whose leadership is made up of some mighty big farmers. The State Farmers Unions are the controlling factor in the national organization. They pay 50 cents per year per capita to the National Union, and it may be well for the AFL Committee to look a bit closer into its connections with the liberal "National Farmers Union."



GOMPERS SQUARE DEDICATION SET.—Washington.—This is the detail of the heroic monument by Sculptor Robert Aitken to Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the AFL. The statue stands in the center of the triangular park, 10th and Massachusetts Ave. N.W., one block from AFL headquarters, which will be dedicated on Oct. 27 as "Gompers Square," by authority of the National Parks and Planning Commission. The monument was unveiled and dedicated Oct. 7, 1933, by President Roosevelt. Washington Central Labor Union is handling arrangements.

Illinois Raises Job Benefits

(Special to AFL News Service)

Chicago.—Amendments to the Illinois workmen's compensation and occupational diseases laws, increasing benefits 13.3 percent, were signed into law by Gov. Adlai Stevenson.

A committee of labor and industry representatives studied the bills and ironed out differences in points of view before the legislation reached the floor of the Illinois General Assembly.

Daniel D. Carmell, president of the Illinois State Federation of Labor, was chairman of the labor committee which helped draft the bills.

Other AFL members included Reuben G. Soderstrom, president, and Stanley J. Johnson, secretary-treasurer, of the state federation; William A. Lee, president, and William F. Cleary, secretary, of the Chicago Federation of Labor.

Minimum benefits under the new amendments are increased from $11.25 to $12.75 a week for a worker with no children. Maximum benefits are raised $30 to $40 for a worker with 4 or more children.

The maximum death benefit, formerly $20 for a worker with 4 or more children, was raised to $9,600.

In addition to raising the benefits, the new amendments revise and simplify the act, which had become so complicated in recent years that an injured worker could figure out his income tax more easily than his workmen's compensation benefit.

Administration of the compensation laws is in the hands of the Industrial Commission of 5 members, all just re-appointed by the governor. AFL representative on the commission is Nicholas M. DiPietro, of the Chicago Typographical Union, Local 16.

HARRY FINKS

San Francisco.—President of Local B-66 AFL International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes was appointed by Ray F. Leheney, secretary-treasurer Union Label Trades Department, as department international representative for area north of San Francisco in California, and Oregon, Nevada and Utah.

Senate Probes Georgia Beating

Washington.—Sen. Hubert Humphrey, chairman Senate Subcommittee on Labor-Management Relations, opened an investigation of a Gainesville, Ga., labor case involving the beating of union representatives with blackjacks and rubber hose following an AFL union victory in a National Labor Relations Board election conducted last March 15.

Representatives of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America testified before the members of the subcommittee that union members and representatives were threatened, shot and beaten up by a mob consisting of employes and supervisors of the J. D. Jewell, Inc., of Gainesville, Ga., a chicken processing plant.

Roy Scheurich, Louisville, Ky., vice president of the International Union, testified that after the employes voted in favor of the union, 280 to 152, the company inspired a mass attack on union representatives for the purpose of driving the union out of Gainesville.

Labor Daily Seeks 30,000 Subscribers

Washington.—The National Reporter, proposed daily newspaper for the labor movement, opened offices in 4 cities to speed a drive for 30,000 subscription pledges.

Spokesmen said AFL and CIO international unions are urging locals to sign pledges to subscribe for their offices. State and city bodies and individual unionists may also subscribe.

Subscriptions are $20 a year for the 8-page Monday-through-Friday daily.

Offices receiving subscriptions are Washington, Mrs. Alvaine Hamilton, 1416 F St. N.W.; Pittsburgh, Mrs. Tova Fried, 510 Commonwealth Ave.; Detroit, Robert Dingwell, 306 Broadway Central Building; Chicago, Richard Leekley and Robert Senser, Room 204, 343 S. Dearborn St.

Howard Upton, former labor editor St. Louis Star-Times, is representing The National Reporter in Missouri.

WSB DEFERS

Washington.—The Wage Stabilization Board resolved that, on any application for an adjustment in wages, salaries or other compensation, in a case in which the National Labor Relations Board or similar state agency has ordered or scheduled a representation election, the Wage Stabilization Board will defer action while such election is pending.

RELEASE LABOR DAY EDITIONS

Women Ready For War Jobs

Washington.—Director Frieda S. Miller of the U. S. Department of Labor's Women's Bureau, said women are ready to take up defense mobilization jobs.

She called on employers, workers and local community organizations to plan together now so that womanpower resources will be used effectively when the greatest need arises. She said in part in a Labor Day message:

"Patriotic housewives without work experience, but ready and eager to take defense jobs that may help pay the skyrocketing family food bills, are not being extensively hired under present conditions because jobs for them are not presently available.

"The chief reason why the defense effort is not yet making full use of the available womanpower is that there is no present over-all shortage of workers except in specialized fields.

"Most of the women offering their services for defense jobs lack training and experience or have been out of the labor force long enough to need retraining. The problem and expense of training them will not be undertaken by industry until management faces a severe shortage of people already trained for the jobs in which workers are needed.

"There are acute shortages in some of the fields in which women predominate, such as the clerical occupations, nursing, teaching, and hotel and restaurant work.

"Now is the time to review our experience in the last war and benefit from the lessons we learned then. Productivity was there, as was morale, in those plants where the rate of job was established bringing women's pay to the level of men's on comparable jobs.

"Productivity was high, due to low turnover and absenteeism, in plants situated where the community recognized a need for services for women workers such as child care centers, adequate housing and transportation facilities and shopping facilities.

"On this Labor Day, I urge employers, workers, and local community organizations to plan together so that we can utilize our womanpower resources effectively."

Plan New Drive To Sell Bonds

Grand Rapids, Mich.—A new nation-wide defense bond drive will be launched on Labor Day, Sept. 3, with a civic program and a "Power for Peace" military spectacle.

Cooperating in the bond drive inaugurated yesterday will be the Department of Defense and the Grand Rapids United Labor Day Celebration Committee. Labor unions will participate in a radio and television broadcast.

National as well as Michigan labor officials have pledged their assistance in the country-wide bond selling effort, and in the Grand Rapids Labor Day inaugural.

Edward G. Tilma, chairman of the Grand Rapids United Labor Day Celebration Committee, announced that the committee would "do all in its power to make the Labor Day program and bond drive launching at Grand Rapids an outstanding example of American patriotism and unity."

CLU Takes AFL Story to People

St. Joseph, Mo.—Organized labor here has been getting more public relations minded during the past year and the result has been that the people of this city have a better understanding of labor unions than ever before.

Last December the Central Labor Council inaugurated a series of locally-produced 15-minute weekly radio programs called the "Voice of Labor," sponsored by the more than 5,000 AFL members in this area.

News of interest to labor, comment on the news, and interviews with people who make the news are featured on these presentations, over station KRES at 6:30 Monday evenings.

Programs are directed by William First, editor St. Joseph Union-Observer, assisted by a 3-member public relations committee appointed last fall by Council President Warren Welsh.

The committee includes the chairman, Lennie Church, geographical Union, Local 40; Frank Vavra, Bakers, Local 208, and Robert Hudspeth, General Teamsters Union, Local 460.

But radio is not the only way by which the committee plans to get labor's ideas to the public. On several occasions in recent months publicity or news releases have been prepared for use by the local daily press.

If there are any actions which the Council could perform that would have the effect of creating good will, making favorable publicity, or getting labor's views on important public issues made known, the committee considers them and makes recommendations to the central body.

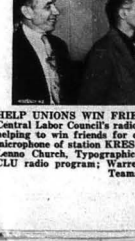
Members of the committee feel that they have only scratched the surface of the possibilities for a public relations program for labor in the St. Joseph area. The cardinal principle guiding the committee's actions is to have labor and its views, and issues make sure that the public knows about them.

Recent "Voice of Labor" grew out of programs sponsored by the St. Joseph Labor League for Political Education in last fall's election campaign. The campaign programs were considered to have had an important relation to the success enjoyed by organized labor here in electing many pro-labor candidates to public office.

Recently the area rent director was interviewed to explain provisions of the rent control law.

Four clergymen, representing Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish faiths, gave their impressions of American Brotherhood Week. Many other interesting persons have appeared on the "Voice of Labor."

St. Joseph, Mo., Helps Public Understand Unions Better



HELP UNIONS WIN FRIENDS.—St. Joseph, Mo.—These men produce Central Labor Council's radio program and other public relations activities helping to win friends for organized labor in their community. At the microphone of station KRES are, l. to r., Frank Vavra, Bakers Local 208; Lennie Church, Typographical Union Local 40; William First, director CLU radio program; Warren Welsh, president CLU; Robert Hudspeth, Teamsters Union Local 460.

GAIN 1,000

Bismarck, N. D.—The North Dakota State Federation of Labor gained 1,000 members in the past year.

That is the estimate made by President W. W. Murrey in his introductory message in the 1951 official yearbook for the 1951 state convention here Sept. 2 and 3.

NYC Contract Rail Pattern

Chicago.—The New York Central agreement granting 15 railroad brotherhoods a union shop may become the pattern for the industry.

This hope was held out by the AFL Railway Employes Department.

Negotiations for a similar agreement were underway between the unions and the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad.

The New York Central agreement is the first system-wide contract of its kind in the history of the railroad industry. It was negotiated under the Railway Labor Union Shop Amendment to the Railway Labor Act passed last Jan. 1 by the 81st Congress.

AFL-Sponsored Labor Sunday Falls on Sept. 2

New York.—The 42d Labor Sunday worship will be observed in the nation's churches on Sept. 2.

In recognition of the service, established in response to request by the 1909 AFL convention in Toronto, the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States has issued its "Labor Sunday Message 1951."

"Through the years labor unions have fought for justice often against enormous odds and often with little means except devotion and courage," the National Council said. It said that it is the Christian's responsibility to understand the conditions under which men work, to see that work is made meaningful, and that it brings a just reward.

The church council recounted the origin of Labor Sunday:

In 1909 the American Federation of Labor sent to the Federal Council of Churches a series of resolutions suggesting "that the Sunday before Labor Day in September, be officially designated as 'Labor Sunday,' and that the churches of America be requested to devote some part of this day to a presentation of the labor question"; with the further resolve "that the various central and local labor bodies be requested to cooperate in every legitimate way with the ministers who thus observe Labor Sunday, seeking with them to secure as large an audience of working men and others as possible."

In a resolution which was unanimously adopted, the Federal Council voted to "commend to the churches of America hearty compliance with the request of the American Federation of Labor therein made; namely, that the Sunday before the first Monday in September, or another as near thereto as possible, be observed as 'Labor Sunday' with sermons and other exercises appropriate to the occasion." The result was the first observance of Labor Sunday in 1910.

Worship and program aids to the churches were made available by the Federal Council. This led in 1917 to the issuance of the first Labor Sunday message, a practice which has been continued in every year following. The observance of Labor Sunday and the issuance of its message has been, therefore, one of the longest established practices in the program of organized cooperation of the churches. In 1951, this tradition is being continued and extended as an annual event by the new National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A.

Green Greets Hobo Conclave

Washington. — AFL President William Green sent fraternal greetings to the 43d annual convention of the Knights of the Road, Aug. 29-Sept. 4, at Tucson, Ariz.

Mr. Green wrote Jeff Davis, King and Emperor, Hoboes of America, Inc.:

"Please extend my personal and official greetings to the delegates in attendance at your 43d annual convention in Tucson.

"While the members of the American Federation of Labor believe in steady jobs and the members of your organization are conscientious objectors, we entertain a sympathetic interest in your problems."

A IS FOR ALABAMA UNION LABEL WEEK.—Montgomery, Ala.—Democratic Gov. Gordon Persons of Alabama, whose state heads the alphabetical list of all the 48, signs a proclamation setting Sept. 2-8 as Union Label week as E. J. Barnett (left), secretary-treasurer Alabama AFL, and Sam S. Douglas, president state AFL, watch.

PROCLAIMS UNION LABEL WEEK—Hartford, Conn.—Republican Gov. John Lodge, third from right, shows Union Label Week Proclamation he has just signed for observance in Connecticut Sept. 2-8. L. to r., Joseph M. Rourke, secretary-treasurer Connecticut AFL; Eugene J. St. Pierre, state AFL vice president; Commissioner of Labor John J. Egan, secretary-treasurer state AFL for more than 20 years; Governor Lodge; Timothy M. Collins, president state AFL; Andrew Christensen, secretary Hartford Central Labor Union.

Canada Fails To Halt Rise In Living Costs

Ottawa, Canada.—That's strictly hooey that U. S. business organizations are peddling to the effect that Canada is holding down the cost of living without direct price controls.

The Trades and Labor Congress charged that "government methods fail to halt inflation." The cost of living index hit a new record high of 187.6 in July.

The immediate reaction of union members throughout the country was to renew the drive for the imposition of price controls.

Writing in the Congress Journal, President Percy R. Bengough pointed out that the value of the dollar had now declined to 53 cents.

"The government had better get some new advisors before it drops to 25 cents," he wrote.

The cost-of-living increase was almost entirely due to foods, which advanced 4.1 percent to 249.7 percent.

WSB Forms at Labor Offices

Washington.—Official forms for applying for all types of wage adjustments through the Wage Stabilization Board are now available at the 76 field offices of the Wage and Hours Division of the U. S. Department of Labor, acting as agents for the board.

They were received by each of the field offices, along with general instruction sheets for all petitioners and special instructions applying to supplemental information required according to the type of wage adjustment being requested.

The supplemental information guide lists will instruct the petitioner as to the additional data required, depending on whether he is asking for adjustment on the basis of new plant, a deferred wage increase agreement, a tandem relationship, an inter-plant inequity, fringe benefits agreement, a cost-of-living adjustment, a piece rate adjustment, or the "rare and unusual" clauses of the regulations.

The guide lists for the last 3 of the situations listed are still in the process of completion, but will be available shortly. In the meantime, petitioners seeking adjustments in these areas should ask for help at the Wage and Hour field offices.

WSB officials called attention to the importance of submitting full information in seeking adjustments, and asserted that during recent months the board staff has been unable to process a considerable number of cases because of inadequate facts.

Halt Giveaway For 60 Days

Washington. — The government's giveaway tax amortization scheme was ordered halted for 60 days effective Aug. 18.

After more than $8 billion in rapid tax amortization had been granted Big Business, Defense Mobilization Director Charles E. Wilson called a halt.

Under certificates issued by the Defense Production Administration, industry can charge off in 5 years the cost of new facilities built to expand defense production.

The carelessness with which these U. S. tax funds have been handed out was criticized by a House committee. They total more than the new tax bill now before Congress.

Mr. Wilson said he called the moratorium to tighten standards.

$8.5 Billion Tax Giveaway

Washington. — The nation's most scandalous give-away "jackpot" totals $8.5 billion.

Till July 31, the big-business-run Defense Production Administration had approved rapid tax write-off for 2,882 new or expanded industrial facilities totaling $8,461,569,605.

The total rises more than $100 million a week.

Under the program certification as an important defense facility permits individuals, companies or corporations to amortize and authorized amount of a new facility over a 5-year period.

The accelerated tax write-off program is provided in the Revenue Act of 1950. Prior to passage of this act, the period permitted for depreciation of new facilities by the Bureau of Internal Revenue was 20 to 25 years, depending on the normal life usefulness of the facility.

Five New Ship Contracts Boom West Coast Hopes

By JOHN F. HENNING
San Francisco Correspondent AFL News Service

San Francisco.—American Federation of Labor forces in California can point to a happy example of labor-management-government cooperation in the awarding of 5 major ship contracts to San Francisco Bay area yards, the first new ships to be given private yards on the West Coast since 1945.

A long 5-year campaign against every conceivable economic and political obstacle reached its first major triumph when the U. S. Maritime Administration announced that 5 of the new Mariner-type fast cargo ships will be built by the shipbuilding division of the Bethlehem Pacific Coast Steel Corporation in San Francisco.

The ship awards will bring an estimated $25 million to Bay area workers, and will give a terrific stimulus to the expansion hopes of western industry.

Work is expected to get under way soon on the new vessels, 30 of which are already being built in Eastern and Gulf yards where contracts were awarded early in 1951.

AFL organizations made the greatest single contribution to the winning of the western contracts.

A joint labor-management effort in the campaign was headed by Thomas A. Rotell, secretary Pacific Coast Metal Trades Council, and Ray Brennan of the Shipyard Laborers Union, who directed the Pacific Coast Committee for Shipbuilding for National Defense, a body comprised of labor and management representatives from California, Washington and Oregon.

Also active in the successful struggle were Al Wynn, secretary Bay Cities Metal Trades Council, and Ed Rowan, special representative of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, who was assigned to the coastwide effort by President Charles J. MacGowan of the Boilermakers.

John F. Shelley, San Francisco Congressman and former president of the California State Federation of Labor, played a dominant role on the government side, together with Rep. Franck Havenner, also of San Francisco, and Rep. George Miller of Contra Costa County.

Meanwhile, all labor eyes in California are turning to San Diego for the Golden Anniversary Convention of the State Federation of Labor, Aug. 20-24.

A review of 1951 state legislative experience, and AFL organization and political plans for the coming year featured the federation conference.

Plans for the 1952 campaign are already under way on an estimated $25 million to Bay area workers, and will give a terrific stimulus to the expansion hopes of western industry.

Work is expected to get under way soon on the new vessels, 30 of which are already being built in Eastern and Gulf yards where contracts were awarded early in 1951.

AFL organizations made the greatest single contribution to the winning of the western contracts.

A joint labor-management effort in the campaign was headed by Thomas A. Rotell, secretary Pacific Coast Metal Trades Council, and Ray Brennan of the Shipyard Laborers Union, who directed the Pacific Coast Committee for Shipbuilding for National Defense, a body comprised of labor and management representatives from California, Washington and Oregon.

Also active in the successful struggle were Al Wynn, secretary Bay Cities Metal Trades Council, and Ed Rowan, special representative of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, who was assigned to the coastwide effort by President Charles J. MacGowan of the Boilermakers.

John F. Shelley, San Francisco Congressman and former president of the California State Federation of Labor, played a dominant role on the government side, together with Rep. Franck Havenner, also of San Francisco, and Rep. George Miller of Contra Costa County.

Beverage Tax Hike Kills Jobs

Washington. — Increased taxes on alcoholic beverages endanger the livelihood of 2 million workers in the nation's hotels, restaurants and taverns.

Edward S. Miller, general secretary-treasurer AFL Hotel and Restaurant Employes and Bartenders International Union, told the tax-writing Senate Finance Committee that workers in the service trade could be "harried out of our jobs by taxing beyond the public's reach the commodities we are employed to serve that public."

Mr. Miller made 3 basic points on behalf of his union, which has about 430,000 members and which, he said, wished to speak also for 1,500,000 unorganized workers in the industry.

1. Increased taxes on beverages will drive many consumers to the illegal, tax-free bootleg product.

2. A higher excise tax an beer and other alcoholic beverages puts an undue burden on the small income of the "Louisville waitress with 25 cents an hour, the New York dishwasher with $45 a week and the Sioux City cook with $55 a week."

3. Higher taxes on alcoholic beverages is a "roundabout road to prohibition." It would be using the "taxing power to gain what cannot be won by the ballot," he charged.

AFL Raps Delay In U. S. Raises

Washington.—The AFL Government Employes' Council unanimously adopted a resolution condemning the delaying tactics that are apparently being used willfully to delay all federal and postal employes salary legislation.

The House Post Office and Civil Service Committee favorably voted to report to the House 3 salary bills. These were simple round figure bills, being $400 salary increase for all federal and postal employes, with the elimination of certain lower grades for postal employes, and a reclassification of salaries of supervisors in post-offices.

Reports from the committee cannot be filed in the House until the proper agencies furnish the estimated cost. The council members endorsing the resolution are strong in their opinion that the Postmaster General, the Bureau of the Budget, and other federal agencies are purposely delaying the report of the committee to furnish the estimated cost of this legislation.

Fight Police Union Ban

New York.—The Workers Defense League, non-Communist labor defense agency, offered to aid the AFL and CIO to challenge in court the order by New York City Police Commissioner George P. Monaghan forbidding New York city policemen from joining a union.

Rowland Watts, secretary, told Mayor Vincent Impelliteri in a letter that:

"Commissioner Monaghan's arbitrary rule, forbidding membership in unions, is contrary to the public interest and, in our opinion, unconstitutional."

Mr. Watts said that Jackson, Miss., found in 1944 after long court litigation that police were not to be considered second-class citizens in respect to this basic right of workers.

"That New York City in 1951 should attempt to repudiate this right is a municipal disgrace and one which we should not tolerate," he said.

He pointed out that 63 cities have police union affiliates of the AFL, others with the CIO, and there "has never been a substantiated complaint from any of these cities that the police have had a divided loyalty."

Britain Ends Order 1305

London, England.—The government on Aug. 14 annulled the Conditions of Employment and National Arbitration Order No. 1305, after 11 years 27 days. The order required compulsory arbitration of disputes.

The order was described as the most unpopular piece of labor legislation enforced in Great Britain since the Trade Disputes Act of 1927.

Under the old order strikes and lockouts were prohibited unless 3 weeks notice had been given to the Minister of Labor and he had failed to intervene.

Students Help Organize H & H

New York. — Cafeteria Employes Union Local 302 of the AFL Hotel and Restaurant Employes and Bartenders International Union petitioned the New York State Labor Relations Board for an election among 3,500 employes in the 7 Horn & Hardart cafeterias and commissary of the Horn & Hardart Automat system.

A departure from the usual union organization tactics has been the use by Local 302 of a widespread newspaper and radio advertising campaign in an effort to reach the Automat workers and in order to acquaint the general public with the organization drive in the Automats.

Newspaper copy in the form of a "Trade Union Quiz" appeared in the New York papers during the month of August and 8 major Manhattan bus lines carried car-cards advertising the Local 302 Automat drive.

Another innovation in the present campaign has been the use, as organizers, of a group of college students from local colleges. These students, all majoring in some phase of labor law, labor economics, industrial relations or sociology, gained practical trade union experience by active participation in union organization work by contacting and convincing Automat workers to join Local 302.

SCHACHTER NAMED

Chicago.—The executive board of the AFL Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen appointed Leon Schachter, Camden, N. J., to be a delegate to the International Food Conference, Sept. 1-4, Innsbruck, Austria.

Minneapolis Hospitals Welched

Newspapers Didn't Tell Building Service Workers Story

(From "Report to Locals" of Building Service Employes International Union)

Minneapolis.—At the beginning of July 1951 BSEIU Local 113 conducted a strike against 10 privately-owned hospitals in the city of Minneapolis.

Headlines in most of the nation's newspapers called attention to the event. Readers were treated to batches of irresponsible journalism (especially in United Press dispatches) telling of pickets with wooden clubs, nurses knocked down, roofing nails in driveways, and society women volunteering to take over the service jobs.

Strike news stories quoted hospital management regularly. They published only one statement attributed to a union representative—quoting a hospital superintendent's version of what the statement was!

The reporters completely ignored the origin of the dispute! It began in 1949 when the Minneapolis hospitals refused to abide by an arbitration award!

Minnesota state law provides for the compulsory arbitration of labor disputes in hospitals, and an arbitration award under this law had granted the hospital employes a 40-hour, 5-consecutive-day week. (The Minneapolis hospitals still have not put the 5-day week into effect!)

In October 1950 another board of arbitration, whose chairman had been appointed by the governor, made an award relating to wages, union security, and again to the 5-day week—the provisions for which were only slightly altered from the previous award.

The Minneapolis hospitals refused to recognize the arbitrators' grant of a modified union shop. They did not re-schedule work in units of 5-day weeks. They did not pay the 5c per hour increase awarded.

Local 113 tried to continue negotiations in good faith. Finally, in December, it received strike sanction from the international union.

The local, however, did not call out the Minneapolis hospital employes. It continued to work for a peaceful settlement.

This spring, Local 113 succeeded in negotiating agreements with the St. Paul hospitals, which had also been parties to the arbitration. (These agreements incorporated the wage increase, the 5-day week, and an improved union security clause.)

Late in May, the Minneapolis hospitals, without consulting the union, finally granted their employes the 5c wage increase. They did not, however, pay the back-pay due employes because the arbitration award had made the increase retroactive.

Local 113 protested, but continued to avoid open strife. It offered to submit the entire dispute to arbitration again! It appealed to the State Labor Conciliator for enforcement of the 1949 and 1950 awards.

Finally, during the last week of June—2 years after the original arbitration—some of the union members, fed up with the tactics of the hospital administrators, walked off the job. When they returned a few days later they were told that since no strike had been called their jobs were forfeited.

On July 4, Local 113—in order to protect the job and seniority rights of these workers, and convinced that no other method could make the hospital bosses listen to reason—struck the 10 Minneapolis hospitals.

The strike was immediately effective. The Minneapolis labor movement, which had long been familiar with the 2-year-old dispute, uniformly supported Local 113. Members of AFL Teamsters unions driving delivery trucks refused to cross the picket lines.

The hospitals responded by crying "foul"! They tried to restaff the hospitals with scabs. They declared the strike "illegal"—under the same law they had flouted for 2 years! They filled the ears of press correspondents with lurid tales of violence and pathos, of nurses "roughed up" and wives unable to get in to see dying husbands.

The complete story of how the hospitals had ignored the law and had forced the strike was not printed. Actually the picketing was orderly. Doctors and nurses were permitted to go through the lines.

The union objected only when superintendents tried to pass orderlies off as doctors, and nurses aides as nurses! When individual policemen, contrary to the orders of the chief, tried to escort people through the picket lines, the pickets stopped the practice by taking photographs.

The one person injured during the picketing was a picket hit by a hospital truck driven by a hospital superintendent.

On July 7 the hospitals secured a no-picketing injunction against Local 113. The union called off the strike, leaving members in Local 113 work. The hospitals looked out some of the returning workers—another violation of the state labor law. The union secured a restraining order and the hospitals were forced to put all the Local 113 members back to work.

As this issue goes to press there are no further developments to report. A meeting of Local 113 Secretary-Treasurer Norman Carle indicates that the local still is hopeful of obtaining fair treatment for its members.

Meanwhile, people interested in the relationship of which have long considered the Minnesota compulsory arbitration law a "model" statute—are making a more careful perusal of its provisions!

Here's How to Check On 20 Percent Rent Hikes

Washington.—The U. S. Office of Rent Stabilization issued this question and answer form to help tenants check on whether their landlords are entitled to a 20 percent rent increase under the weak Defense Production Act of 1951. This may save you rent money:

Q. Can a tenant challenge an increase based on the 20 percent increase provision in the new rent law?

Yes. The tenant may request a review if he feels the basis upon which the increase was granted did not conform with the facts.

Q. What can the tenant do?

He can write the local rent office and request the review and mail or deliver a copy of the letter to the landlord. A tenant should do this within 15 days of the time he received the notice or order from the local rent office setting the new maximum rent. The landlord has 15 days to answer to the rent office after receiving a copy of the request for a review from the tenant.

Q. Can an order setting aside or reversing a landlord's application be made retroactive?

Yes. If there are misstatements on the landlord's sworn application, the tenant may then request the local rent office to revoke or modify the rent increase retroactively to its effective date.

Q. My landlord has decreased the services and equipment provided on June 30, 1947. Can he obtain the full increase over his June 30, 1947, rent?

If a landlord has decreased services, furniture, furnishings or equipment, he should indicate the extent of the decrease on the sworn application. If a rent adjustment has not already been made by the rent office for the decreased services, etc., he is not allowed to put a rent increase into effect until his application has been approved by the rent office. He is not entitled to put the increase into effect immediately under these circumstances.

Q. Is a landlord required to give notice to his tenants that he has filed a rent increase application?

No. However, the tenant receives his official notification when the local rent office issues a notice or order based on the landlord's application. If there are misstatements on the application the tenant may challenge the increase.

Washington State AFL Doubles Affiliations

Spokane, Wash. — The Washington State Federation of Labor gained almost 100 percent in the number of affiliated AFL bodies since 1946.

This was revealed by President E. M. Weston at the 49th annual convention. The 50th Golden Anniversary Convention was set for Tacoma beginning July 14, 1952.

The president's report to the convention brought forth the astonishing growth of the federation since 1946, the beginning of President Weston's first term of office.

Mr. Weston reported that affiliations now total 772 as compared to 388 when he took office. This is just 4 short of a 100 percent increase in affiliate membership and the reaffiliation of a few more machinists' locals is expected to account for these 4.

The ranks of delegates were swelled by the addition of many machinist locals' delegates, who were enthusiastically welcomed back into the federation.

Some of the more important resolutions adopted centered around planning future political activity. One expressed a strong desire for future LLPE financial campaigns to be conducted locally by the federation rather than by the National LLPE through the various internationals, and authorized federation officials to negotiate such an arrangement if possible.

Western reclamation, irrigation, flood control, and power projects were strongly supported by resolution action.

Many resolutions dealing with the problems of governmental employes were adopted.

A resolution calling for the federation to sponsor an initiative for repeal of the state sales tax on food provoked an interesting discussion. After considerable criticism of the working of the state sales tax and its lack of a substitute financing source, the resolution was referred to the executive board for study.

One resolution calling for state legislation covering time off for voting with pay was amended by deletion of the words "with pay" before it was passed. Delegate after delegate spoke against being paid by the employer for the time he takes to vote.

The only elections held at the convention were those of trustees of the various section organizations and defense funds, and official tellers for the federation election to be held next May.

The per capita tax of 6 cents per member per month was left unchanged, although the convention did pass a resolution urging each local affiliated to make a per treasury donation of 10 cents per member for LLPE purposes as set forth in the LLPE by-laws adopted in 1949.

The salary of the president (the only full-time elective official of the federation) was increased from $600 to $750 per month, subject to Wage Stabilization Board approval.

JOB PLACEMENT RECORD

Washington.—More than 14 million job placements of farm and nonfarm workers were made by the public employment service during the fiscal year ending June 30, a new postwar record.

Korean Price Rise Cut U.S. Dollar to 54 Cents

Washington. — The AFL Labor's Monthly Survey reports that wartime price rises since the Korean outbreak cut the dollar's buying power another 4 cents.

Inflation has reduced the dollar's purchasing power to 54 cents in 12 years, the survey said.

Price controls during war-time (1942-1945) did not and could not check inflation; the dollar's buying power dropped by 14 cents during the price and wage control period.

Inflationary pressures, which accumulated under price controls, broke loose when controls were lifted and cut another 14 cents from the dollar's buying power between 1945 and 1948. 1948 production had increased enough to balance consumer demand and we had almost 2 years without a significant price rise, September 1948 to June 1950.

War-scare buying after Korea led to more price rises, cutting the dollar's buying power 4 cents below 1948.

The average American living standard is lower today than it was 7 years ago. Income received per person (or percapita) in U. S. A. has more than tripled in the last 12 years, rising from $555 in 1939 to $1,628 in 1951. But because the buying power of these dollars has been cut sharply by high taxes and inflation, the 1951 percapita "real" income was only 45 percent above 1939, and actually 8 percent lower than in 1944.

Percapita "real" income represents the American living standard, the actual buying power per person in U. S. A.

This halt in our rising standard of living is a serious matter. For American real income has risen for more than a century, though with some interruptions. The present check, due chiefly to inflation, must be overcome if progress is to continue.

Traditionally, American living standards have been raised by increasing productivity. From 1890 to 1944, production-per manhour rose more than 175 percent and workers real wage rose by a similar amount. This progress must not be checked.

Workers' real straight-time wages have been effectively frozen since January 1950.

Not only has workers' wage progress been frozen, but their living standards are actually being cut down. Tax increases have already reduced weekly take home pay, and will reduce it further.

The October 1950 tax increase cut 3.6 cents per hour from the single man's pay, and a little less than one cent per hour from the pay of a married man with wife and 2 children.

The tax increase suggested (but not yet enacted) by Congress would take another 24 cents from single workers and about one-fifth of cent from married workers with 3 dependents, probably starting in October 1951. In all, the tax increases since January 1950 will take about 6 cents and 1½ cents an hour respectively from these workers.

This freezing of progress for workers is inconsistent with the steady increase in productivity. The President's economic advisors estimate, in their mid-1951 report, that productivity will increase by about 2 percent per year during the first years of the defense program.

The important point is: When productivity rises, wage increases are earned and can be paid without raising prices. Wage controls should permit productivity increases. To freeze workers' progress and permit others to gain by productivity is unjust and discriminatory. Since a rise in productivity is vital for defense and also for increases in consumer goods as a check to inflation, workers should be given every incentive to cooperate in raising output.

OPEN BUREAU

Des Moines, Iowa.—The Iowa State Federation of Labor established a Bureau of Academic Research at Iowa City.

President Ray Mills announced that James E. Leik, Iowa City, is director.

The bureau is a branch of the state federation's Department of Education and Research headed by John E. Cosgrove of Des Moines. Through the bureau, Mr. Mills said, the Iowa AFL will be able to further its research work and can provide service for its affiliates on a wider scale than heretofore.

Bureau Director Liek, a graduate of the University of Iowa, is secretary of the Iowa City Federation of Labor and president of Local 450 of the American Federation of Musicians in Iowa City.

WORK LONGER

London, England.—Largely because of the economic situation, men are today working an average of nearly 48 hours a week—about the same as before the war—and the over-all average working hours, including the 7,300,000 women and all the youths and girls under 18, are more than 46 a week.

Union Matches Sent to Nam Il

Oswego, N. Y.—AFL union-made matches—superior to slave labor products—were sent to Kaesong, Korea, for negotiators on a cease-fire agreement.

Lieut. Gen. Nam Il, head of the Communist negotiators, has had poor luck trying to light cigarettes with Chinese matches. But American-made matches, presumably carried away from the conference table, worked every time.

Fred Kloonan, president AFL Diamond Match Federal Labor Local 21,149, transmitted 2,500 books of matches to Vice Admiral Charles Turner Joy, chief of the UN delegation. He said that products made by free men will always be superior to those of regimented slave labor.

"With the thought that they might demonstrate this point I presented to General Nam Il," Mr. Kloonan said, "we are sending you a case of what they will call matches for this purpose. They will light every time and who knows but what they will help the general to see the light."

RELEASE LABOR DAY EDITIONS

Sees Labor Day As Opportunity

Washington.—In a Labor Day statement, the social action department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, Rev. R. A. McGowan, director, said in part:

"This is a critical period in the history of the world, but it is also a time of great opportunity—opportunity to establish a good social system in all the countries outside the Iron Curtain."

The NCWC said that Labor Day should be profoundly religious.

"The American trade union movement, which is honored in a particular way on the occasion of Labor Day, will, let us hope and pray, continue to be faithful to the principles of justice and charity upon which it was founded," it said.

SHIPYARD JOBS UP

Washington.—Employment in United States shipyards has increased over 60 percent since the outbreak of Korean hostilities.

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